



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
PINE HILL CEANOOTHUS
Ceanothus roderickii



CLASSIFICATION: Endangered

Federal Register [61:54346](#) (PDF 104 KB); October 18, 1996

This species was listed as rare by the California Department of Fish and Game in July 1982. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range).



CRITICAL HABITAT: Not designated

RECOVERY PLAN: [Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Foothills](#), 8/30/2002

http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/020830b.pdf (6 MB)

5-YEAR REVIEW: INITIATED

Federal Register [74:12878](#); 3/25/2009

DESCRIPTION

Pine Hill ceanothus (*Ceanothus roderickii*) is a prostrate evergreen shrub of the buckthorn family (Rhamnaceae). It spreads to about 3 meters (10 feet) in diameter. The smooth gray-brown branches radiate from a central axis and root when they come into contact with the ground. The leaves of the species are semi-erect with entire margins.

Small whitish flowers tinged with blue appear from May through June. Their resulting fruit is an inconspicuously horned globe-shaped capsule.

Pine Hill ceanothus grows on gabbro soils. Gabbro soils originate from volcanic rocks (gabbrodiorite) that are mildly acidic, rich in iron and magnesium, and often contain other heavy metals such as chromium. Gabbro, a dark large-crystalled rock, is formed when liquid magma cools slowly underground. A red soil is formed when the rock is exposed and weathers at the earth's surface. These soils are well-drained and are underlain by gabbrodiorite rocks at a depth of more than 1 meter (3 feet.)

See Hickman (1993) in General Information about California Plants, below, for a detailed description of the species.

DISTRIBUTION

It is restricted to the Pine Hill intrusion in El Dorado County. According to the [California Natural Diversity Database](#) (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab/html/cnddb.html>) there are 16 occurrences known to be extant and another that may have been extirpated.

THREATS

Residential and commercial development, inadequate regulatory mechanisms, off-road vehicle use, road-widening, change in fire frequency, and other human-caused conditions are responsible for the decline of the species. Commercial development has extirpated two known occurrences. Most of the plants are on private land. The Bureau of Land Management manages the land where at least one population occurs. The California Departments of Forestry and Fire Protection and Fish and Game manage another site.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Learn more about protection efforts by the [Pine Hill Preserve](http://www.pinehillpreserve.org/) (<http://www.pinehillpreserve.org/>)

Wilson, J.L. 1986. A study of plant species diversity and vegetation pattern associated with the Pine Hill gabbro formation and adjacent substrata, El Dorado County, California. California State University. Sacramento. Thesis.

[General Information about California Plants](http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm)

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Larger images: http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/images/pine_hill_ceanothus.jpg

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